

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 0554Z 141547Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1118
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PNET, TU, GR, US
SUBJ: PRESS REPORT ON ALLEGED EMBASSY ANKARA ASSESSMENT OF TURKISH
ELECTIONS

1. THE ATHENIAN DAILY AKROPOLIS (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT)
JUNE 14 CARRIES A PAGE ONE "EXCLUSIVE REPORT" FROM ITS WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT ARIS ANGELOPOULOS ENTITLED "THE USA EMBASSY IN ANKARA
WARNS THE STATE DEPARTMENT: TURKEY WILL TURN TO THE SOVIETS." THE
REPORTER CLAIMS HIS STORY IS BASED ON "A REPORT" FROM THE U.S.
EMBASSY IN ANKARA SENT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE RECENT TURKISH ELECTIONS. THE AKROPOLIS STORY QUOTES AT LENGTH
FROM THE ALLEGED EMBASSY MESSAGE WHICH IS INTERPRETED BY THE
ARTICLE AS SUGGESTING THAT "US DIPLOMATS" IN ANKARA EXPECT TURKEY
TO TURN TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION IN THE WAKE OF THE ELECTION.

2. THE STORY ITSELF IS BUILT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF QUOTATIONS WHICH
ANGELOPOULOS CLAIMS TO HAVE CULLED FROM THE MESSAGE. A SAMPLE OF
THE ALLEGED QUOTATIONS FOLLOWS:

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--"THE HOPE THAT DEMIREL MIGHT WIN A SOLID MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT
HAS COLLAPSED AND THE POSSIBILITIES THAT THE ARMY MIGHT INTERVENE
AGAIN TO PROTECT KEMALISM ARE INCREASED."

--"IN THE PAST TWO YEARS SOVIET INVESTMENTS IN TURKEY WERE DOUBLE
THOSE OF THE ENTIRE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST...REGARDLESS OF WHO FORMS
THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THE PARLIAMENT WILL DISCUSS THE RATIFICATION

OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHICH WAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY DEMIREL. IF THAT AGREEMENT IS APPROVED, IT WILL BE THE FIRST ONE TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND A MEMBER OF NATO. THAT WILL MEAN THE FINAL COLLAPSE OF THE SOUTH (SIC) WING OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE."

--"TURKEY IS THE SICKMAN OF EUROPE EVEN THOUGH ITS POPULATION IS 90 PERCENT ASIAN."

--"THE TURKISH ARMY IS NOT A POLITICAL FORCE. BUT THE OFFICER CORPS REMAINS DEVOTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF KEMALISM, IN OTHER WORDS TO THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, TO THE SEPARATION OF THE STATE FROM ISLAM, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF TIES WITH THE WEST."

--"TURKISH CLAIMS IN THE AEGEAN ARE LIMITED TO THE SHARING OF OIL DEPOSITS AND THE AIRSPACE WITH GREECE."

ACCORDING TO ANGELOPOULOS, THE ALLEGED REPORT FROM ANKARA ALSO INCLUDED OBSERVATIONS THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT GIVE IN TO PRESSURES FROM THE US CONGRESS.

3. SOVIET-TURKISH RELATIONS ARE ALSO DISCUSSED BY LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIAM ON JUNE 14. ITS LEAD STORY, DATELINED NEW YORK, REFERS TO AN ARTICLE IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL BY RICHARD JANSEN DEALING WITH SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. SOVIET AID TO TURKEY WILL EXCEED TWO BILLION DOLLARS, ACCORDING TO CIA ESTIMATES, THE STORY ADDS.

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Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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